

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/778,378

Applicant(s)

BIEBESHEIMER ET AL.

Examiner

Isaac M Woo

Art Unit

2172

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to reponse filed on 06/07/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-2,4-11,13-20 and 22-30.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 07 February 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) ✓
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


SHAHID ALAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is in response to the amendment filed on June 07, 2004. Claims 1, 4-5, 10, 13-14 19, 22-23 are amended. Claims 3, 12 and 21 are canceled. Claims 5, 14 and 23 (objected in previous action) are amended for incorporation in each of their respective independent claims 1, 10 and 19. And claims 1-2, 4-11, 13-20 and 22-30 are presented for examination.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-2, 4-11, 13-20 and 22-30 are allowed over prior art. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Due to claimed features in claims 1, 10 and 19, the claims 1-2, 4-11, 13-20 and 22-30 are allowed.

For the claims 1, 10 and 19, the prior art teaches (Chundi et al, U.S. Patent No. 6,502,091), user context classifier for a customer self service system that performs resource search and selection, the system including a context attribute database comprising types of user contexts and one or more context attributes associated with each user context for processing by the system, and context attribute function database comprising functions for computing values for each context attribute, the classifier comprising a processing mechanism.

The prior art does not teach combination steps of user context classifier for a customer self service system that performs resource search and selection, as follows:

receiving a user query and a context vector comprising data associating an interaction state with the user and including context that is a function of the user, and processing the query and context vector against data include in the context attribute database and context attribute function database for predicting a particular user context, wherein said classifier implements a supervised learning algorithm that receives historical user interaction data including data relating to past user queries entered into the system and associated user contexts for users, and learns how user context attribute values map to user context attribute functions to improve the context attribute functions, classifier utilizing improved context attribute functions to predict user contexts and populates the user context vector with context parameters specifying a use interaction state for use in a subsequent resource search.

Claims 2, 4-9, 11, 13-18, 20 and 22-30 are dependent claims, being definite, further limiting, and fully enabled by the specification, are also allowed.

3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."


Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Isaac M Woo whose telephone number is (703) 305-0081. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John E Breene can be reached on (703) 305-9790. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

IMW
July 28, 2004


SHAHID ALAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER